

Florida Tuberculosis and Health Assn.
235 East Monroe Street
Jacksonville, Florida

For Immediate release

Tuberculosis took a death toll of 185 Negroes in Florida during the first ten months of this year which is 31 fewer fatalities than reported during the same period last year.

The figures were given out by the Florida State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. The report shows more white persons than Negroes died from tuberculosis during 1951.

From January through October of this year 224 deaths of white persons were listed as compared with 202 for that time last year.

Local TB associations urge an all-out effort in the Christmas Seal Sale in order that it will be possible to have funds to continue its assistance in finding more cases of the disease and in impressing on the public the importance of providing hospital beds for more patients.

Dr. George W. Gore, Jr., chairman of the Negro Seal Sale and president of Florida A & M College, points out the decreasing Negro deaths are proof that buying Christmas Seals is buying health for all persons.

He says these figures are encouraging and are possible because more people are getting chest X-rays to find TB before they feel sick or know they have the disease. Early treatment in Florida's TB hospitals also helps save lives.

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The tuberculosis death rate among Negroes in Florida is decreasing more rapidly than that of white persons, according to figures just released by the Florida State Board of Health.

Although the Negro death rate is approximately four times that of the white death rate, it represents a decidedly faster rate of decline.

In 1950 the tuberculosis death rate was 11.2 for whites and 44.1 for Negroes. Ten years before that, the white rate was 27.2 and the Negro rate was 112.4.

These figures prepared by Dr. C. M. Sharp, director of the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control of the Florida Board of Health, are based on death rates per 100,000 population.

Dr. George W. Gore Jr., chairman of the Negro Christmas Seal Sale and president of Florida A & M College, says this falling death rate among Negroes is the result of the educational program made possible through the sale of Christmas Seals; to more case-finding clinics and to increased beds for hospitalizing those found to be ill with the disease.

Widespread efforts to teach the public how to combat this number one killer have brought about earlier diagnosis in more cases and has provided proper treatment and a constructive re-training program to fit the patient for his future needs.

Dr. Gore urges all citizens to buy TB Christmas Seals in the campaign which ends on Christmas Day.

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